

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 EB-03 L-02

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P 031030Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5099

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0025

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, IS, US

SUBJECT: U.S. /ISRAEL JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT

--POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING

REF: TEL AVIV 6895

1. ISRAELI PRESS HAS CARRIED SEVERAL STORIES OVER LAST FEW DAYS STRESSING LACK OF PROGRESS IN JOINT COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS AND PREDICTING POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING NOW SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON JAN 27-28. HAARETZ OF JAN 1, FOR EXAMPLE, CARRIED REPORT FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MARGALIT STATING THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON FIVE UNRESOLVED SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OR IN FINDING SUITABLE AMERICAN BUSINESS MEN FOR ISRAEL/U.S. PUBLIC COUNCIL. STORIES ALSO NOTE THAT SECRETARY SIMON PLANS TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST IN FEBRUARY.

2. DAVAR OF JAN 3 REPORTED THAT FINANCE MINISTER RABINOWITZ TOLD ITS CORRESPONDENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. INCLUDING EFFORTS TO SET UP JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, "ARE NOT PROCEEDING SO WELL." RABINOWITZ REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HIS DEPARTURE FOR U.S. ON JAN 22 HAD BEEN POSTPONED AGAIN. HE REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT "IN CIRCUMSTANCES, PERHAPS WE SHOULD TRY TO SET UP SIMULTANEOUSLY JOINT TRADE COMMITTEES WITH EUROPE."

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3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THESE PRESS REPORTS ON JAN 3, DIRECTOR

GENERAL AGMON, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, SAID THAT LACK OF PROGRESS IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON REMAINING FIVE ISSUES AND IN FORMATION OF PUBLIC COUNCIL HAD INDEED RAISED QUESTION ABOUT "PRACTICALITY OF HOLDING TO JANUARY DATE FOR FIRST MEETING." GOI WAS GENUINELY CONCERNED, HE SAID, THAT NO ANSWER HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM USG ON THESE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS. MOREOVER, TWO ADDITIONAL FACTORS HAD ARISEN WHICH COULD AFFECT TIMING OF MEETING. CODEL INOUE WOULD ARRIVE ON JAN 24 AND WHILE RABINOWITZ COULD SEE THEM ON THAT DAY AND STILL GET TO WASHINGTON BY JAN 27, RABINOWITZ WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE TIME WITH THIS IMPORTANT GROUP OF SENATORS. THEN THERE WAS "RUMOR" THAT SECRETARY SIMON WOULD VISIT THIS AREA IN MID-FEBRUARY AND POSSIBLY VISIT ISRAEL ON FEB 19. HE SAID THAT SECRETARY SIMON WOULD OF COURSE BE WELCOME BUT, IF HIS VISIT TAKES PLACE, IT DOES RAISE QUESTION ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF JAN 27-28 MEETING IN WASHINGTON. AGMON CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, BY REITERATING THAT IF PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES, ISRAELI MINISTERS WOULD BE MORE THAN WILLING TO GO TO WASHINGTON THIS MONTH AS SCHEDULED.

4. COMMENT: WE FIND GOI'S BLATANT USE OF PRESS "LEAKS" AND STATEMENTS TO BE HIGHLY IRRITATING. THEY ARE AWARE THAT USG HAS MADE MAJOR EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE ISRAELI DESIRES IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND THAT PACKAGE OF CONSIDERABLE VALUE TO ISRAEL HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT SOME OF REMAINING FIVE POINTS ARE TOO COMPLEX TO BE RESOLVED AS QUICKLY AS THEY DESIRE. THIS BEING SAID, WE ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY AGMON'S STATEMENT THAT "NO ANSWERS" HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ISRAELI EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE APPOINTMENTS IN STATE AND TREASURY NEXT WEEK AND WE RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE GIVEN CLEARER PICTURE OF WHAT CAN BE AGREED BY JAN 72 (NOTE: IN ADDITION TO SEEING CODEL INOUE, RABINOWITZ IS SCHEDULED TO HOST LUNCH ON JAN 24 FOR TIME "NEWSTORU" GROUP.)

KEATING

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**To:** STATE  
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